

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed December 2, 2003. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants amend Claims 75 and 87. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects Claim 75, as being indefinite, since Claim 75 contains two periods. Applicants amend Claim 75 to correct a typographical error. The first period is deleted and a semicolon is added in its place.

Applicants also amend Claim 87, to correct an improper claim dependency. Applicants change the dependency of Claim 87 from Claim 12 (a previously cancelled Claim) to Claim 86.

These amendments are submitted after the filing of a Notice of Appeal and concurrent with the filing of an Appeal Brief. Applicants respectfully contend that these amendments do not introduce any new issues, and respectfully request that the Examiner enter these amendments.

Examiner Interview

On November 5, 2003, Applicant and the Examiner participated in a telephonic Examiner Interview. Applicant pointed out that the August 29, 2003 Office Action rejected a claim that was copied from an issued U.S. patent and therefore, required the signature of the Group Director. The Examiner agreed to issue a new Office Action signed by the Group Director, and did so on December 2, 2003.

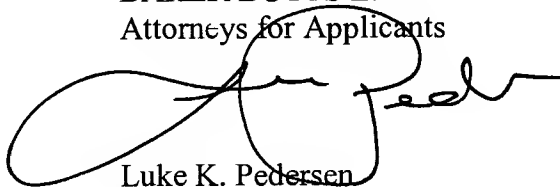
Conclusions

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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